

Dialogue with US and Euro countries on Visa for Indian experts

2261. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not been able to evolve a serious and potentially effective dialogue with Euro countries and the USA on how best to treat Indian experts wishing for short-term two month visa under the Mode 4 services category in WTO;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to get some interim relief through the WTO in this regard;

(c) the specific emphasis being given on talks on this issue of Mode 4 service visas for Indian professionals getting service in Europe; and

(d) the achievements so far with WTO in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) India's core objectives in the Doha Round negotiations in services are in Mode 1 (Cross Border Supply) and Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons). India is the coordinator of the plurilateral request group on Mode 4. Apart from actively negotiating with all Member countries of the WTO, specially the EC and the USA for gaining effective market access in Mode 4, India has submitted several negotiating proposals on Mode 4 covering issues such as removal of the Economic Needs Test, clear prescription of the duration of stay, provisions of extension, creation of a separate category of visas namely-Service Provider Visas for professionals both for Contractual Service Suppliers (CSS) as well as Independent Professionals (IP). In the Revised Offers tabled by the important trading partners of India, like the EC and Australia, some improvements in Mode 4 have been offered.

Export Promotion Schemes

2262. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes, other than SEZ through which various incentives/concessions are extended for export promotion;